

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing an alarm signal to alert a dialysis patient that he or she is having a heart attack, the method including the following steps:
  - a) determining if the patient is a dialysis patient who has been connected to a system that performs dialysis;
  - b) implanting into the patient a system for early warning of a heart attack by means of noting an ST segment shift in that patient's electrogram;
  - c) sounding an alarm from within the implanted system to warn the patient that he or she is having a heart attack.
2. The method of claim 1 including the additional step of having an external alarm system in close enough proximity to the dialysis patient so that it would receive a signal from the implanted system indicating that a heart attack has been detected.
3. The method of claim 2 including the additional step of having the external system provide an audio alarm when a heart attack is detected by the implanted system, the audio alarm being able to be detected by the dialysis patient who is having a heart attack.
4. The method of claim 2 including the additional step of having the external alarm system being capable of communicating with a remotely located diagnostic center, the diagnostic center having a medical practitioner who would have voice contact with the patient after the implanted system has indicated that a heart attack has been detected.
5. The method of claim 1 including the additional step of determining if the patient has diabetes.
6. The method of claim 1 including the additional step of determining if the patient has had a prior heart attack.

7. The method of claim 1 including the additional step of determining if the patient has diabetes and has had a prior heart attack.
8. The method of claim 1 including the additional step of determining if the patient has an implanted pacemaker or defibrillator.